

My name is Camellia Redway, Program Director for the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) at Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis (CCCC) in collaboration with Augusta Lewis Troup School in New Haven Connecticut. We are in the third year of teen pregnancy prevention funding and CCCC has been trained to utilize the science-based Wyman Teen Outreach Program model that is committed to ensuring program fidelity and utilizes service learning to foster community engagement and make vulnerable students the givers, rather than receivers, of help. I have been placed in a wonderful position at our local middle school (Augusta Lewis Troup School) where I have acknowledged how important it is to talk to our youth on a personal level and have them understand the world they live in and how they are able to make changes for themselves or others. The TOP students complete a minimum of 1000 service learning hours each year. CCCC participates in a national evaluation in which results indicate that students participating in TOP have a 60% lower rate of school dropout, 14% lower rate of school suspension, 11% lower rate of school course failure and 33% lower rate of pregnancy.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy estimates that in 2004, teen childbearing cost Connecticut taxpayers \$114 million and also according to an analysis by the Family Planning Program at the University of Connecticut Health Center, New Haven exceeds the statewide average for births to teen mothers (aged 19 or younger) and is ranked the seventh worst community in Connecticut with an average percentage of 13.7% of all resident births to teen mothers as compared to the statewide average of 6.9% during the same time period. New Haven is clearly a community in need of teen pregnancy prevention services and we would like to maintain the Teen Pregnancy Prevention funding to the Connecticut Department of Social Services to preserve the uninterrupted delivery of science-based teen pregnancy prevention program for at-risk youth. Service learning influences the students to become better people in their homes, schools and general communities. This would allow programs like mine to put forth outstanding students who will also then give back to their communities

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